

# County Councilman David Marks Fifth District Newsletter

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## MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN MARKS: PUBLIC INPUT, DESIGN STANDARDS FOR TOWSON PROJECTS

Downtown Towson is on the cusp of a building boom that will bring new residents and businesses to our seat of government. Our office has helped advance redevelopment projects like the Towson City Center and Towson Commons. At the same time, we have worked to address issues raised by residents concerned about the pace of growth:

- In 2012, our office blocked a request for more intense commercial zoning west of Bosley Avenue. **The County Council downzoned 66 acres of land in Towson to lighten future development.**
- We are advancing the concept of a Towson Circulator to improve mobility in Downtown Towson; worked with the County Executive to install bike lanes; and passed the first-ever bike parking requirements in Baltimore County.
- Last month, the County Council passed legislation requiring open space fees from Towson development to be spent locally. **The Council is expected to adjust these fees imminently.**



*Towson Green was developed after extensive community input.*

The Council also established the first-ever height restrictions for buildings near Historic East Towson.

Now, I am proposing legislation that will require new residential projects to be evaluated by the Baltimore County Design Review Panel. This group of professional architects and engineers will scrutinize the look of new apartments, condominiums, and townhouses—and the public will have more opportunity to comment. If we are going to have these buildings for the next half-century, let's make sure they are well-designed and attractive.

## COUNCIL CREATES ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

Councilman Marks cosponsored legislation introduced by his colleague Vicki Almond that creates an Animal Services Advisory Commission. This panel will provide recommendations on the animal shelter and other animal-related issues. The County Council also passed legislation that removes the “marriage penalty” for the spouse of a county employee who dies in service—such as a police officer, firefighter, or corrections officer. That spouse will now be allowed to remarry and retain benefits.

## **BELMONT/DUNFIELD**

### **Focus Group to Look at Neighborhood Needs**

Councilman Marks will be putting together a focus group to examine needs in the Belmont and Dunfield communities. This region, centered on Walther Boulevard, is new to the Fifth District. If you are a resident who would like to serve on the group, send an email to [dmarks@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:dmarks@baltimorecountymd.gov).



*Belmont Park is a 43-acre recreation site off Walther Boulevard.*

## **PERRY HALL**

### **Soukup Park Opens for Activities**

Soukup Park has opened! The park at Chapel and Joppa Roads is home to an arena financed through a significant contribution from the Perry Hall Recreation Council. This is the fourth of five parks planned for the Fifth District.

### **Angel Park Fundraising Nears \$1 Million**

The fundraising campaign for Angel Park is nearing the \$1 million mark. Please consider supporting this initiative. Learn more at <http://www.angel-park.org>.

### **Stream Restoration to Occur at Seven Courts**

Baltimore County will soon begin work on a \$1.6 million project to improve the Lower Gunpowder

stream near Seven Courts. The project involves regarding stream banks, building structures using rock or wood, and heavily vegetating the stream corridor. Typically, a project of this scale takes from two to three years to complete. The county will hold a community meeting to inform adjacent property owners once the design is finalized.

## **KINGSVILLE**

### **Jericho Bridge Renovations to Begin in 2015**

The restoration of the historic Jericho Covered Bridge will likely begin in March. During the nine-month rehabilitation, the contractor will dismantle the bridge, paint the steel beams, and replace and restore the arch timbers, roof, side planks, timber deck and curb. During construction, traffic will be detoured from Jericho Road to Jerusalem Road, Joppa Road, Franklinville Road and Vinegar Hill Road.



*The Jericho Bridge spans Harford and Baltimore Counties.*

## **TOWSON**

### **Dumbarton Middle Named a Lighthouse School**

Dumbarton Middle has been named one of seven “Lighthouse” middle schools. The conversion, which is part of a multi-year effort called S.T.A.T. (Students and Teachers Accessing Tomorrow), aims to integrate technology into teaching and learning. For more information, visit <http://www.bcps.org/academics/stat>.